

1983 Number 3

R.R.P.

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COMMODORE SCORES WELL

At the Sebel Town House, Sydney for the Award Computer of the Year by the YOUR COMPUTER MAGAZINE, the judges selected on 5 main points; ergonomic design in both hardware and software; technical excellence in design, engineering and provision of advanced new features; user support, documentation and training; value for money; and performance.

The marketing manager for N.E.C. Australia, Mr. Jolyon Bone, the ultimate winner, said "There was no such thing as a 'best' computer. Everyone had their own needs which different machines suited best." The six finalists were Commodore 64, the B.B.C. microcomputer, the Otrona microcomputer, the Otrona Attache, The Toshiba T-100, the Colombia MPC, the D.E.C. Rainbow, the Sirius, and the IBM Personal Computer.

JOTTINGS FROM THE MEETING

The Committee will have some 64 software hot off the press at our June Meeting. A

reminder library books and software can be loaned to members (one month) and may be returned by post. Change of meeting (see change of meeting place) where those present will split into play groups.

MEETINGS

The Commodore Users' Group meeting on the 1st Tuesday of each month will be on Tuesday, 6th June at Construction House, 130 Petrie Terrace and as from the July meeting at our new meeting place, The Maternal and Child Welfare Building, 184 St. Pauls Terrace at 7.30 p.m. sharp. There is a laneway through to the parking area.

PRODUCT REVIEWS

This newsletter will, in future, carry a review of any product which may be of interest to the Commodore Users' Group and whilst the views expressed will not necessarily be the views of this group, and much less those of the Editor, they will be a review of the product by an experienced computer operator with the purpose of seeking an improvement of product; It will also be a useful guide for members on what is considered good value. If you are buying, check first with your Users' Group, who will be able to advise you on your selection and also of the best buying, without prejudice.

ΔΔΔ INSIDE ΔΔΔ

REVIEWS

EDITORIAL

With the advent of the new clubrooms in St. Pauls Terrace, providing we do the right thing, keeping it clean and tidy, should mean a semi-permanent home consisting of two rooms plus the use of the staff amenities room. Here the Committee, who have already formulated the subcommittees, as per the President's comments, will be able to divide the user's group into the various groups, with much benefit to the group. The members must also play their part in assisting newer members to become acclimatised and if they have problems, endeavour to help them or direct the problem to one of the more experienced members of the group. Please do not monopolise the committee's time at these meetings, as they have to provide for everyone and also try and keep the group and the computer's gainfully occupied.

Also be warned on new programmes or games, whatever the label or whoever is producing them, if they have not been tried and tested BEWARE as the programs are being sold complete with mistakes and are completely useless unless reprogrammed by an expert. I feel personally that the firm is to be held responsible to the Cosumer Affairs Bureau for marketing an article which is not correct and suitable for the purpose for which it is intended; One of our members very recently spent \$24 on the Commodore 64 games book and has found some games with mistakes enough to make them unplayable; After the expense of a phone call to the distributor in Melbourne advising of the mistakes, the distributor asked him if he would phone him if he found any more mistakes (no offer of compensation on Phone calls or of an amending note to anyone purchasing the games book), as they had not checked the book since its printing in Asia. So "BEWARE" to the customer and "BEWARE" to the distributor in a competitive industry, if your goods are not correct, you are no competition.

POST OFFICE

The postal address is now as on the second page. Please make sure your correspondence reaches us by sending it to the correct address.

LIBRARY

Country members are reminded that they may borrow for 30 days on condition they pay return postage.

ADVERTISE FREE!

Any member who owns a business or service, or works in the industry, and would like to let other members know, then tell the editor, Laurie Woods, and we will put it in the magazine for a nominal fee. If you are offering a discount to members, then no charge.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear User Group Members,

In recent months, the number of members has increased quite rapidly to the point where we find it difficult to provide as much attention to the individual's needs as we would like. With many of the earlier VIC users swapping to the CBM 64 and the reluctance of members to express their desires to the committee, some of the VIC users may feel that they are not being looked after. I should note here that our projects recently have been to purchase copies of monthly VIC cassette magazines from the U.S., various magazines and books for the library, set up a VIC cartridge "club", and organise discounts for members from as many sources as possible.

From July, when we move to our new meeting place, (see front page for details), we will be better able to organize special interest groups. However, one of the present problems is that the committee structure is no longer suited to interaction with the various sub-groups we now have in the club. I would like to propose that we try out a system of sub-committees, each with their own budget, to look after each sub-group. In this way I feel the group will involve more users and become more responsive to users needs.

The proposed NEW committee structure would be:-

President, Secretary, Treasurer and one representative from each of the following groups:

VIC CBM 64 PET/CBM

and any other sub group as desired, e.g. Education, Business

One final comment, the club can only function efficiently if some members are prepared to devote their time to organise activities for the majority.

Greg Perry.

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

The end of the financial year will soon be upon us. Enclosed with this newsletter is a slip of paper with your details on it. The amount owing is as at the 31 June 1983 : for those who have joined the group since the end of the last financial year, your fees have been calculated on a pro-rata basis.

Would you please check the other details on your slip to ensure their accuracy. This is especially the case for machine type, as without knowing who owns what, it becomes difficult to plan where our spending should lie.

The member type codes are as follows:-

o/n	ordinary	f	family
b	business	c	country

64 problems

by Terry Steer

1. Some people are experiencing excess background noise. We have found that this can be tuned out by retuning the UHF TV output. However, you have to open up the computer to do this. If you are not sure on what to do, ask someone who does, or bring it along to the meeting. This problem also occurs on the Vic but its TV convertor pack is external and is also adjusted the same way as for the 64.

2. 1541 Disc Drive

My drive developed a noise not unlike a fan stuck in the radiator of a car and still turning. On inspection, I found that the main wheel turning the disc had fallen off its shaft and was still turning. It was rubbing against the metal base making a shocking noise. The wheel is only a press fit, but not very strongly pressed on. A call to Commodore resulted in an answer to this problem. Put it back on the shaft with a bit of araldite. It appears, it is not an uncommon fault. This does not mean it will happen to every 1541, but if you have a strange noise, as mentioned, switch off and try again. If the noise is still there, have someone look at it or try yourself.

64 REVIEWS

by Terry Steer

GRIDRUNNER by Lamasoft (cassette)

A machine code program. Arcade style. No program in arcades is of any comparison. Fast moving program that gets progressively harder. Does tend to get a bit boring as the objects you fight against do not change, but only increase in amounts and frequency of appearance. Uses a joystick or keys. Good sound, reasonable graphics. Rec. Retail \$18 but costs approx. \$25 locally. Rates 5 out of 10.

ATTACK OF THE MUTANT CAMELS by Lamasoft (cassette)

Machine code arcade style program. Good use of graphics and sound. Fast moving action. This program is repetative and gets harder as you go on. Uses joystick or keys. Rec. retail \$18, sells locally for Approx. \$25. Rates 6 out of 10.

ROX by Lamasoft (cassette)

The packet says arcade style game. Obviously the same public relations team who worked for Malcolm Fraser are now selling computer programs. This is a program in basic. It is not of a standard up to the 64's capabilities. Uses

COUNTRY MEMBERS

Since this newsletter will hopefully be a regular monthly event now that we have an editor to do all the hard work, i.e. Laurie Woods. Anyone wishing to send in any articles or suggestions, please forward them to Laurie. Also any country members who would like to contact others in the club in their area, then tell us and we will put your name and address in the next issue. You will appreciate that we cannot just print a list of country members and addresses because some people may not want their name and address made public. Also tell us what type of computer you have.

To newcomers, you will find that all Commodores basic programming is the same in principle except for graphics and sound, and poke and peek locations. If you have any programming problems, write in and we will endeavour to help you. If you want some of the programs in our public domain library, send us a blank disk or C90 cassette with a request for types of programs, i.e. games, educational, business or all. We will pay the return postage.

A lot of the programs for the VIC have been typed in out of various magazines. So, if you have typed any decent ones, then send them in and we will put them on our club disks and send yours back with other programs on them. Send tapes if you like.

VIC REVIEWS

by Terry Steer

DEFENDA by Lamasoft (cassette) (Joystick)

A fast moving arcade game very similar to an arcade game where you use smart bomb etc.; considered one of the best Vic games available, uses machine code and requires at least 8K extra. Good sounds and graphics. Costs Approx. \$20. Rates 7 out of 10.

CHOPLIFTER Rompack (Joystick)

An arcade game where you use a helicopter to rescue people. Has good sound and graphics but poor colour. Game difficulty does not increase: you just get better with practice. Cost approx. \$40. Rates 7 out of 10.

ROADRACE Rompack by Commodore (uses keyboard)

Not one of their better games. You see the road from behind the windscreen which is different to most other car race games. Sound and graphics reasonable. Cost approx. \$40. A good game for car game enthusiasts. A joystick

have made it better. Rates 5 to 7 out of 10

ADVERTISING

LEARNING BASIC

Greg Perry will be conducting a learning basic course which will start in mid-June. The cost of the course will be \$50. For more information contact Greg on (07) 38 3295 a.h. B.Y.O.C.

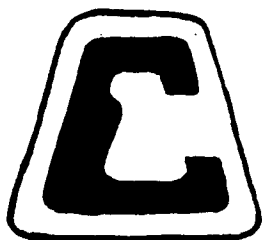
DISCOUNTS

This User's Group has already solicited discounts and been able to buy the CBM-64 at a very good figure. At the moment the Group has a number of tapes at \$1 each to members, but you must be quick as only a few are available at this price.

Other discounts we have negotiated are :-

* Complete Computer Centre 10% off

* A club discount from Sydney on the 64 15% (see Terry Steer)



COMPURO

- Computerised Accounting
- Word Processing
- Mailing Lists
- Type Setting

(07) 2872705

50c for the first 2 lines, and 10c a line thereafter.

4032 CBM swivel screen, 2x 4k ROM expanders, Superkram & Visical Vortrax Computer, Voice Synthesiser, Software & manuals. \$1700.

4040 CBM Dos2, cable & manual. \$1300.

4022 CBM bi-directional tractor printer, cartridge, new ribbon, cable & manual. \$800.

VIC-20, 14" colour tv/monitor joystick, lightpen,

Superexpander, Saragon Chess cartridge, Golf space game, CBM cassette player, modulator, software & manuals. \$950.

ROLAN SHIOI keyboard synthesiser with D/A converter for computer, plug pack & battery. Cables, manuals etc. \$400

Leon Percy Ph. (07) 287 3442.

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from the treasurer (cont.)

The early settlement of accounts would be appreciated.

John Egan

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(After Hours)

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Bardon. 4065.

Gregory J. Perry B.Sc. Hons., Ph.D. (Chem.)
COMPUTER CONSULTANT